New Scheme for total poverty-alleviation

†2551. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new ambitions scheme for total proverty alleviation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) and (b) An ambitious Scheme namely the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) has been launched w.e.f. 25th September, 2001 to create additional wage employment with food security in the rural areas. There is, however, no scheme in the Ministry of Rural Development for total poverty alleviation.

As regards the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and the jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) will get fully merged with the new Scheme. However, the EAS and JGSY will continue as a part of the new Scheme for the current year. Under the SGRY, 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains amounting to Rs. 5000 crores (at economic cost) will be provided every year, free of cost to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The remaining funds (Rs. 5000 crores) will be utilized, to meet the cash component of wages and material cost. About 100 crores mandays of employment are envisaged to be generated every year in the rural areas through the SGRY.

Backward District in the Country

2552. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declared several districts in the country as backward district;

(b) if so, the names of such districts, State-wise;

(c) the criteria for assessing a district as backward;

(d) when such assessment was last done; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.